525 acres. Out of the latter area, 124 square miles and 204 acres have been proposed for conversion into reserved forests and 11 square miles and 321 acres into fuel and grazing blocks. There is practically little scope for further forest reservation in Travancore. In regard to Forest Settlement, it is seen that there are 37 blocks pending enquiry and that 7 more blocks will be ready for enquiry ere long. The question of appointing a full-time Forest Settlement Officer to dispose of these cases at an early date has been under the consideration of the Government and it is proposed to make provision for this appointment in the budget for 1094.

13. **Working plans.**—Detailed working plans have been sanctioned in respect of 271 square miles and 526 acres and are in preparation in respect of 335 square miles and 367 acres, leaving a balance of 1,736 square miles and 557 acres for which the preparation of plans still remains to be taken in hand. At the Forest Conference held in 1092, it was suggested that, in view of the incompleteness and unreliability of the data available, the preparation of working plans on an elaborate and detailed scale would not be desirable at present and that the preparation of simple preliminary working schemes by the officers in charge of the respective Forest Divisions would be sufficient to meet immediate requirements. This suggestion has been approved by the Government as a tentative measure. But the department has been distinctly informed that these simple working schemes should not be allowed to take the place of the regular working plans contemplated in the Forest Code.

14. **Extension of cultivation.**—With a view to the extension of cultivation and the development of traffic on the Western Outlet road which has been made cartable as far as the 35th mile, three blocks of reserved forest adjoining that road, comprising about 3,500 acres, were ordered to be disafforested and assigned for registry under the *puduval* rules. Another area of 2,099 acres, comprising blocks of marshy and low-lying lands included in reserves but not required for purposes of forest conservancy, was also ordered to be disafforested and made available for paddy cultivation.

15. **Other forest items.**—The formation of a separate Plantation Division with effect from the beginning of 1092 has been of considerable benefit to the department, and planting and thinning operations appear to have in consequence received adequate attention during the year. The stock of timber at the close of 1092 in the sale and forest depots was 9,21,334 cubic feet, against 11,85,932 cubic feet in 1091. The balance is still heavy and instructions have been issued for clearing it off with the least avoidable delay. The coupe-sale system, under which select standing trees in a coupe are marked and sold for a lump-sum offer, introduced in the High Range Division in 1091, was extended to the Quilon Division towards the close of 1092. The necessity for passes for the removal of green manure from private lands was dispensed with. Two new fuel depots were tentatively opened at Aramboly and Darsanamkope. Since the close of the year, the Forest Manual, in the preparation of which much useful labour was spent by Mr. K. S. Narayana Aiyangar, Assistant Conservator of Forests, has been issued. This publication is bound to be of great advantage to the department and the public.

16. **Salt.**—Government have been obliged to raise the selling price of Bombay salt to Bh. Rs. 2-11-6 per maund in the Alleppey, Quilon and Trivandrum port salt depots and to Bh. Rs. 2-12-6 per maund in the bankshalls of the Shencottah taluk, with effect from the 26th Vrischikam 1093, on account of the shortage of freight and the heavy increase in the price of the commodity in Bombay. This circumstance once again brings into prominent relief the question of the development of the home-salt industry. With the object of affording protection to the completed factories on the one hand, and, as a precaution, on the other, against the danger of any excessive and sudden reduction in the water-holding capacity of the Manakkudi backwater into which the Pazhayar river discharges itself, the policy of the Government has been to grant lands for salt culture in such a manner as to allow full time for one plot to be worked into a factory before another plot is assigned for that purpose. It is gratifying to note that considerable advance has been made in salt culture in South Travancore during the last decade. In 1083 the areas of salt factories and working pans were 612·48 acres and 219·87 acres respectively and the total outturn of salt.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

2,74,003 maunds. The corresponding figures for 1092 were 1,054·33 and 327 acres and 5,93,543 maunds. Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar's factory, which is expected to be completed in the current year, will perceptibly increase the total output. Since the close of 1092, another area of 38·75 acres has been assigned for salt manufacture and the Chief Engineer and the Excise Commissioner have been asked to make a joint report after personal inspection on the question of the extension of salt culture in South Travancore. It is the earnest desire of the Government to make the State as far as possible self-supporting in the matter of its salt supply. A set of draft salt rules under the new Salt Regulation, III of 1088, has been published in the Gazette.

17. **Excise.**—The number of country liquor shops sanctioned to be opened in 1092 was 2,279 or 73 less than the number in 1091, the number actually opened being 2,274. The number of arrack shops within the excise area was 719 against 737 in 1091, giving an average of one shop for every 9·71 square miles and 4,736 inhabitants. The incidence of taxation on country spirits rose from chs. 5-cash 5 to chs. 5-cash 7 per head of population. The rate of duty on cocoanut toddy arrack was raised by as. 10 per proof gallon. The total quantity of foreign liquor imported into the State fell by 5,849 gallons.

18. **Opium, Ganja and Tobacco.**—From the beginning of 1093 the independent shop system has been brought into force in regard to the sale of opium and ganja and arrangements have been made for the sale of these commodities from the taluk treasuries. The tobacco bankshall at Trivandrum has been abolished, since the local merchants were not making any use of it in recent years.

19. **Customs.**—Reference was made in my address last year to the imposition of a duty of Bh. Re. 1-as. 8 per 100 lbs. on the tea exported from Travancore. By an arrangement entered into during the year between the Government of India and the Darbar, all tea sent from Travancore by land to foreign countries was exempted from export duty leviable in British India, provided that such duty had already been paid in Travancore and a certificate to that effect was produced at the British Indian port of export. Tea exported for consumption in British India was exempted from the payment of duty in Travancore. The tentative measure for the abolition of the export duty on timber, fire-wood and charcoal, which had been sanctioned for a period of five years from 1087, was extended for another year.

PROTECTION.

20. **Legislation.**—Two of the important Regulations placed on the statute book since last February are the Travancore Markets Regulation, VII of 1092, and the Travancore Copyright Regulation, VIII of 1092. The former Regulation was passed mainly with a view to regulate the opening of markets in the interests of sanitation as well as the preservation of public peace. The latter Regulation was passed in order to bring the law on copyright into line with the recent British Indian enactment on the subject, the main features of the Regulation being the prolongation of the term of copyright to a period of 50 years, the abolition of the formality of registration, and the extension of copyright to translations and works of art. Among the chief Bills now before the Legislative Council may be mentioned, in addition to the Municipalities Bill and the Chitties Bill to which reference was made in my last address, the Animal Diseases Bill, the Plant Pests Bill, the Revenue Recovery Regulation Amendment Bill, the Survey and Boundaries Bill, and the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Bill. It is worthy of note that all these proposed enactments are of direct and immediate concern to the ryot population and that the last of them is undertaken to popularise the system of giving loans to ryots for agricultural purposes including the purchase of seed and manure.

21. **Vacancy in the Council.**—A vacancy will soon arise in the Legislative Council, consequent on the expiry of the term of Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, who had been returned by the Members of the Trivandrum Division. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the Members of that Division will now meet under the presidency of the Division Peishkar, Trivandrum, to elect a representative whose name will be submitted to His Highness for consideration.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly